

News Release

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Recovering from the Storm Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge

(Chincoteague, Virginia) Today Refuge Manager Lou Hinds announced that Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge is now open to limited public access. Work continues to repair significant damage inflicted by the recent Nor'easter.

"Weather conditions have been favorable these past few days allowing us to assess and monitor the extent of the damage and coordinate recovery actions with our partners," Hinds exclaimed. "As each day passes and progress is made, it is our intent to provide access to other public areas as quickly as possible."

Please consider the following when planning your next visit:

- The Herbert H. Bateman Educational and Administrative Center is currently open from 7am – 5pm. Come to the auditorium or visit us on-line www.fws.gov/northeast/chinco to view photos of the storm's impact. Check back often to obtain updated information as it becomes available.
- The historic Assateague Lighthouse and trail will open on Thursday. Climb to the top and see first-hand how water and wind from the storm has shaped and changed the natural landscape.
- Woodland Trail is expected to be open by this weekend.
- The Wildlife Loop, Marsh Trail, Black Duck Trail, Swans Cove Trail and the Service Road will remain closed until further notice.
- All Wildlife Bus Tours offered by the Chincoteague Natural History Association offered have been cancelled for the remainder of the season.
- The Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Zone is currently closed. Access may soon be provided on a limited basis.
- Beach parking is not available at this time.

“Safety first” is a common phrase uttered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service staff and volunteers, when clearing roads and trails, removing tires and debris from the beach or repairing damage to other refuge infrastructures. Your help may be needed. Contact us by phone (757)-336-6122 or visit our website to learn about volunteer opportunities.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.